

11/7/00
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 Patent and Trademark Office



NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/251,641	02/17/99	012	NICOLAS, W	1741 11/07/00
First Named Applicant	REDLINE,	35 USC 154(b) term ext.	=	0 Days.

TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD FOR ENHANCING THE SOLDERABILITY OF A SURFACE

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEES DUE	DATE DUE
1 297-086	205-085.000	U76	UTILITY	NO	\$1240.00	02/07/01

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT.
 PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS
 APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or

B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.

Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/251,641	REDLINE ET AL.	
	Examiner Wesley A. Nicolas	Art Unit 1741	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

1. This communication is responsive to CPA and Amendment dated 10/26/00.
 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 17-20.
 3. The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
 1. received.
 2. received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number). _____.
 3. received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office Action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
 - (a) because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.
 - (b) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review(PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (c) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
 - (d) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE / SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____. | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to the CPA and Amendment dated October 26, 2000. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-8, and 17-20 are currently pending in the case.

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on 10/26/00 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/251,641 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1-8 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrier et al. (EP 0 797 380 A1), and further in view of Wakita (5,567,357).

The rejection of claims 1-8 and 17-20 with respect to Ferrier et al. and Wakita has been withdrawn in light of the argument and amendment made by Applicant in paper # 10 and the telephone interview conducted on 10/24/00.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-8 and 17-20 are allowed over the prior art of record.

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The specific process and plating solution which comprises a soluble source of silver ions, an acid, and an additive selected from the group consisting of fatty amines, fatty amides, quaternary salts, amphoteric salts, resinous amines, resinous amides, fatty acids, resinous acids, ethoxylated versions of any of the foregoing, propoxylated versions of any of the foregoing and mixtures of any of the foregoing was not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

In addition, the reasons for allowance as submitted by Applicant on October 26, 2000 is also deemed sufficient by the Examiner and is incorporated herein.

With respect to the prior art, the closest secondary reference of Wakita teaches the enhancement of solderability using silver plated copper powder and the addition of fatty acids to increase the dispersion. There is no soluble source of silver ions present and further, there is no immersion silver plating solution and as such there is no motivation to combine Wakita with the primary reference of Ferrier et al. which is silent with respect to the specific additive.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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REMARKS - Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed October 26, 2000 have been fully considered and they are persuasive.

During a telephone interview with Applicant's representative on 10/24/00, the prior art was discussed and compared to the instant claims. As shown in the amendment dated 10/26/00, Applicant amended the claims to include language which is in accord with that of claim 1, namely a soluble source of silver ions and an acid.

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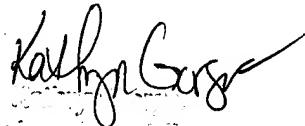
Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wesley Nicolas whose telephone number is (703)305-0082. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 7am to 5pm.

The Supervisory Primary Examiner for this Art Unit is Kathryn Gorgos whose telephone number is (703) 308-3328.

The fax number for this Group is (703)305-7719.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0661.



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Wesley Nicolas

November 6, 2000